

Coopersville Area

community foundation SM

For **good.** For **ever.**SM

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of the Coopersville Area Community Foundation:

The weather is getting cooler and the holiday season is almost upon us! But, before summer is just a distant memory – let me say what a great Legacy Society event we had in July at Ward and Jean Verseput's home! Looking around at the familiar faces, the beautiful surroundings and hearing a few Foundation stories – it made me feel privileged to be a part of this community. We are truly here for good, for ever, for Coopersville!

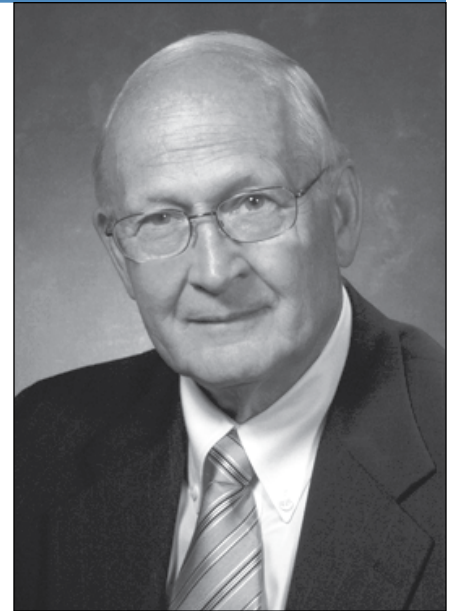
We are very happy to welcome Shirley Draft to our Board of Trustees. Shirley has already been to a couple of meetings and we are thrilled to have her serve in this capacity. Welcome Shirley!

As we near the end of another year, let me encourage your year-end gifts. We are losing a valuable tax incentive – the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit - to State budget cuts. So, if ever there was a year to support the Community Action Fund with a gift – it is this year. The needs in our community are great and this is your last chance to take advantage of a 50% tax credit.

Thank you to all who have supported our work and we wish you all the best as we wrap up a productive year!



Sincerely,
Norm LeMieux, Chair, Board of Trustees



Excellence in Education

We celebrated Coopersville's brightest and best High School Seniors in May at our annual Excellence in Education (EIE) Dinner. The EIE dinner is an opportunity for the Community Foundation to honor the top 10% of the graduating class in Coopersville as well as the educator, chosen by the student, that most impacted their school experience. It is always an inspiring evening...

Each year, Ed and Nancy Hanenburg provide the financial support to make this evening possible. Thank you to the Hanenburgs for their continued support of education in Coopersville and best of luck to all of these outstanding students!



Foundation Awards Scholarships to Area Youth

Scholarships were recently awarded to eleven outstanding area students from eight Scholarship Funds established by donors in the Coopersville Area Community Foundation. Thank you to the many donors who have established Funds that support our local students. If you are interested in learning more about how our Scholarship Funds work – please call Holly Johnson at 616-842-6378. She is in Coopersville often and would love to meet with you.

Brad Huisken



Kelsey Lothschutz



Kaitlyn Adair



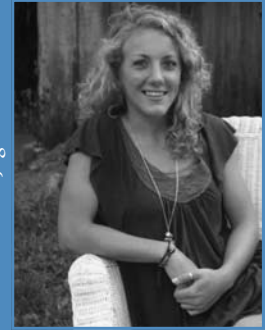
Sophie Bennett



Elizabeth Tusch



Marie Vander Jagt



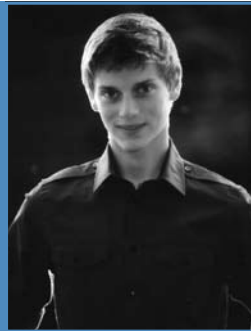
Stacy Joy Vankoevering



Austin Glerum



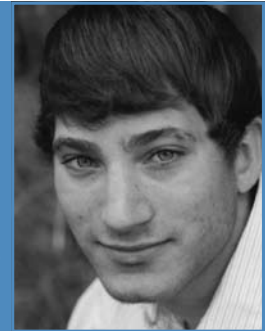
Jacob Whitman



Elizabeth Nelson



Neal Umlor



Chris Bradley Endowed Memorial Scholarship

The Chris Bradley Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1999 by the American Speed Association Women's Auxiliary in loving memory of Christopher Bradley who died tragically at a young age. **The recipient for 2011 is Brad Huisken attending the University of Michigan.**

Jack and Libby Bush Scholarship Fund

This scholarship was opened in 2005 by the family of Libby Bush as a lasting memorial to Elizabeth "Libby" Bush after her untimely death. **The 2011 recipient is Kelsey Lothschutz attending Grand Rapids Community College.**

Ronald C. Bush Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in 2006, by his wife, Karen Bush, with donations from friends and family, this Fund offers a scholarship to a graduate of Coopersville High School. **The 2011 recipient is Brad Huisken attending the University of Michigan.**

The Staci Cheadle Memorial Scholarship Fund was started as a result of an outpouring of community and family love for Staci whose life was unexpectedly cut short in 2005. **The 2011 recipient is Kaitlyn Adair attending Muskegon Community College.**

Coopersville Public Schools Scholarship Fund

This scholarship fund is the Foundations most flexible, supporting graduating seniors pursuing a wide variety of degrees. **This year's recipients are Kaitlyn Adair attending Muskegon Community College, Sophie Bennett attending Grand Valley State University, Kelsey Lothschutz attending Grand Rapids Community College,**

Elizabeth Tusch attending Grand Valley State University, Marie Vander Jagt attending Davenport University, and Stacy Joy Vankoevering attending Grand Valley State University.

The Dake Community Manufacturing Scholarship

This fund was opened in 2007 by both employees and management of Dake Corporation of Grand Haven, in honor of the 120th anniversary. The scholarship is for students seeking to further their technical, vocational or manufacturing interests. **The 2011 recipient is Austin Glerum attending Ferris State University.**

Del Shannon Memorial Scholarship Fund

This fund was opened in August of 2007 in loving memory of Coopersville's own Del Shannon, by his wife Shirley Westover, and his family. **The recipient for 2011 is Jacob Whitman attending Western Michigan University.**

S.J. Hecksel Memorial Scholarship Fund

Established in 2000 by Sherman and Ruth Hecksel in loving memory of their son, S.J., who died tragically at a young age. **The recipients for 2011 are Elizabeth Nelson attending Aquinas College and Neal Umlor attending Ferris State University.**

Nelson Family Scholarship Fund

Established in 2007 by three siblings who grew up in Coopersville and their spouses, Raymond and Barbara Nelson, David and RuthAnn Nelson, and Linda (Nelson) and James Brigham, this scholarship will assist a current graduate to attend college. **The 2011 and FIRST recipient of this new scholarship fund is Stacey Joy Vankoevering attending Grand Valley State University.**

Legacy Society Members Celebrate at the Verseput Home

Ward and Jean Verseput opened their beautiful home on Spring Lake for our annual Legacy Society Event in July. It was a perfect summer night to catch up with friends, hear a Foundation update as well as say thank you to those who have made plans for a legacy gift to the Coopersville Area Community Foundation.

Legacy Society members are those who have made a planned gift to the Community Foundation. That might sound complex – but it is really rather simple. The Coopersville Area Community Foundation is here to show you how you can leave your legacy and impact your community forever.

Thank you to Ward and Jean – they provided the perfect backdrop for a festive evening! If you are interested in learning more about joining this special group of people, please call Holly Johnson at 616-842-6378.



Welcome to Our Newest Board Member

We are pleased to welcome Shirley Draft as a Trustee to the Coopersville Area Community Foundation Board. Shirley is a lifelong resident of Coopersville where she and her late husband, Barry Draft, raised two children. She retired from H.H. Fuller



Company and Imperial Graphics where she worked as an Executive Secretary. Shirley has a long record of civic involvement with a number of organizations including the Polkton Township Planning Commission, Friends of Ottawa County Parks, Coopersville District Library, Coopersville United Way, Planned Parenthood as well as eight years of service on the Coopersville Area Public Schools Board of Education. Given Shirley's outstanding commitment to, and involvement with, programs that make Coopersville a great place to live, she will be a valuable resource to the Board. Welcome Shirley!

Safety on the Race Track

Mr. Nicolas' advanced engineering class learned valuable lessons while dedicating hours to building, and finally, racing Coopersville High School's Electrathon Car. A grant from CAYAC brought additional safeguards to the project by providing funds to purchase two new helmets with built in two-way radios to help improve driver communication and safety.



Final Year for the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit!

All good things must come to an end...changes to the Michigan tax code signed into law in this year will include the elimination of all charitable tax credits beginning in 2012. This means that Michigan residents and businesses have only a couple of months left to make a contribution to the Community Foundation and receive the added benefit of the Michigan Tax Credit. (Please note – all donations, to any Foundation Fund, are still eligible for Federal Tax Deductions.)

Just to remind you, when an individual, family or business invests in an Endowed Fund at the Community Foundation – like the Community Action Fund here in Coopersville - the current Michigan Income Tax or Michigan Business Tax codes allow for up to a 50 percent return on that investment.

If an individual contributes \$200 or more, the tax credit automatically will equal \$100. If filing a dual return, a gift of \$400 or more would yield a \$200 credit. If a business contributes \$10,000 or more, the credit will be for \$5,000 or 5 percent of the total tax liability for that business, whichever is less.

We have enjoyed this added giving incentive for 20 years and we certainly are sorry to see it expire. But, as we move forward, it is vitally important to remember that any support of the community through a Foundation donation continues to have as much value as ever - regardless of changes to the state tax code.

Do Not Delay - give now to any endowed Fund and take advantage of the Michigan tax credit one last time!

2011 Board of Trustees

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Kevin O'Neill, Vice Chair
Robert TerAvest, Treasurer
Cindy Timmerman, Secretary

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Larry Lemmen
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Sue Veeneman

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